7: Hu K-5 (1934-) 1946 AF16 Southwest China AF16

success is evidenced by the remarkable fact that during the past twenty-two hundred years, ever since this irrigation work was built, there have been only six minor floods in the Plain. 312

The presence of innumerable other irrigation projects, greatly diversified in construction and surprisingly adaptable to the local topography and source of water supply, bears witness to the painstaking and extensive adjustments the Basin has made to the vital problem of water supply.

A second adjustment to water resource lies in the fact that even with its limited available technological knowledge, the Basin has made good use of many of its numerous streams. By canalization, damming, and other devices, the navigability of these streams has been greatly increased. Especially the successful negotiation by steamboats of the bottle-neck (gorges) of the mighty Yangtse has greatly tempered the continental position and the land-locked character of the Basin. These achievements, in turn, have facilitated the movement of the bulky agricultural and forestry products among the various areas both within and without the Basin.

The localization of the Basin's urban units on the terraces and along the banks of the principal rivers is a third example of adjustment, partly to topography and partly to river transportation. 361

Among the climatic adjustments, the architecture of the Basin (characterized by the projecting eaves, recurved roofs, and elaborate roof ornaments) is closely correlated to the absence of wind and snow and the extended misty rain-season of the Basin. 132 341

The practice of digging in the soft, friable, cretaceous bed rock, in order to hasten weathering and soil formation for agricultural land use, represents one of the most astounding examples of soil culture and environmental adjustment in the Basin. 242

As a result of the abundant growth of bamboo in the Basin, an interesting adjustment to vegetation has taken place. Nowhere else in China except in the Basin does one find widespread use of bamboo. In addition to the large number of articles of furniture, household tools, and utensils of various kinds which are made from this material, even the great engineering construction works, including the important irrigation systems, bridges, and brine-salt mining equipment are all made of bamboo. It was once estimated that bamboo is used for six hundred different purposes in the Basin. Here people are truly in the "bamboo age." 314